

Message Text

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APPROVED BY: ARA/CAR:MR BURKE

EA/ROC-MR LEVIN (DRAFT)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

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FOLLOWING REPEAT TAIPEI 3684 ACTION SECSTATE 23 JUN

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINR

SUBJ: INTERVIEW RE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN DR DURING TIME OF TRUJULLIO'S
ASSASSINATION

PASS TO ARA/LA/CAR, DIRECTOR JOHN R. BURKE, FROM BARFIELD

1. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DON SHAPIRO CALLED ME SATURDAY MORNING

JUNE 21 TO SAY HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON ME SO THAT I COULD "REMINISCE"

ON

MY DAYS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. RECEIVING NO OBJECTION FROM THE FRONT

OFFICE, AND HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED IN 1972 BY THE DESK TO

TALK

TO AUTHOR FITZGERALD, I ANSWERED THE LIST OF QUESTION HE BROUGHT, TELE-

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GRAPHED TO HIM FROM NEW YORK. THE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS WITH THE ESSENCE

OF MY REPLIES FOLLOW:

A. WHAT WAS THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE DR AT THE TIME OF THE ASSASSINATION? - I LEFT THE DR ABOUT ONE MONTH BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION

BUT BEFORE I LEFT THE PLACE WAS RIFE WITH TALK OF CHANGE. THERE WAS A PLOT EXPOSED IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION IN MAY IN

WHICH THE ACTION WAS TO TAKE PLACE AT A RODEO. CONGRESSMAN PORTER MENTIONED THIS PLOT BEFORE IT WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AND THERE WERE PERIODIC ATTEMPTS OR RUMORS OF ATTEMPTS FOR MANY YEARS.

B. DID THE EMBASSY KNOW THOSE WHO WERE PLOTTING? YES, THEY WERE AMONG OUR NORMAL CONTACTS, PROFESSIONAL MEN PRIMARILY?

C. WHY DID THEY TALK TO U.S. OFFICIALS ABOUT SUCH THINGS? - FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. FOR ONE THING, AT THAT TIME THEY HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT FRIENDLY TO TRUJILLO CONSIDERING THE TALK OF HIS HAVING KIDNAPPED A U.S. CITIZEN, MURPHEY, AND HAVING BROUGHT HIM TO THE DR WHERE HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER KIDNAPPING IN THE U.S. - THAT OF PROFESSOR GALINDEZ. ALSO, TRUJILLO HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF A FRIENDLY LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENT, ROMULO BETANCOURT OF VENEZUELA, AND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE BROKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE OTHER ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES MEMBERS. I WOULD HAVE BEEN SURPRISED IF THERE HAD BEEN NO SERIOUS PLANS TO DISPOSE OF TRUJILLO CONSIDERING THE RECENT PROBLEMS, FINANCIAL AND OTHERWISE, THAT WERE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION. THOSE IN THE BEST POSITION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WERE ACQUIRING MORE REASONS TO DO SOMETHING. FOR THIS REASON, THE U.S. HAD NO NEED TO ENGINEER A PLOT AGAINST TRUJILLO EVEN IF IT HAD BEEN SO INCLINED.

D. DID THE CIA PROVIDE ANY TANGIBLE SUPPORT TO THE PLOTTERS?

- I DON'T KNOW.

2. COMMENT: I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LAST QUESTION WAS THE KEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTION AND THE PREVIOUS LINE OF QUESTIONING WAS MERELY A BUILDUP FOR THE "SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR" QUESTION.

UNGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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